

Talking points

Ergon Ethanol, Inc. – Bunge North America, Inc. Groundbreaking
Vicksburg

Thursday, October 26, 2006

Note: They are expecting two to four minutes of remarks.

- When the announcement was made in May that these two outstanding companies were teaming up to build the largest ethanol plant in the southeastern United States, I was excited about the potential for several reasons.
- The project pairs up Bunge's grain handling facilities in Mississippi and Louisiana with Ergon's petroleum refining and marketing assets.
- With an annual capacity of at least 60 million gallons of ethanol being produced in Mississippi, some 21 million bushels of corn will be required each year, creating new markets for regional corn growers.
- It will produce a renewable, clean-burning fuel.
- The project will generate corn-based co-products that are excellent feed ingredients for area poultry and livestock producers.

- This investment is additional evidence that Mississippi is an emerging leader in biofuels and domestic energy sources, an important element for economic development and our state's future.
- Most exciting to me is that market forces, not state incentives, are driving this investment. This is private enterprise at its best.
- I congratulate Ergon and Bunge and share their confidence in this innovative venture.

Here are the suggested themes for each speaker:

U. S. Representative Chip Pickering: Ergon a global company based in Mississippi.

U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson: Ergon-Bunge Investment illustrates Delta's tremendous resources.

U.S. Senator Trent Lott: Domestic Energy Independence.

U. S. Thad Cochran: Ethanol is a good for agriculture.

Gov. Haley Barbour: Mississippi is an emerging leader in biofuels and domestic energy sources.